

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN NEW HOUSING

Site practice for tradesmen

Ground floors:

Insulating below an in-situ concrete slab



Insulation placed below a concrete slab causes little disruption to the construction sequence. It is essential that insulation is placed on a well compacted, level surface to avoid uneven settlement. As the floor is supported on the insulation, the insulation boards should be moisture-resistant and of sufficient compressive strength.

To avoid cold spots, lay insulation across the whole floor area with no gaps between the boards. Where services pass through the floor, cut the insulation away neatly to accommodate the services. Insulation to the slab edges should be effectively supported during concrete pouring. If necessary, use boards for walking and barrowing across the insulation when concreting. Use temporary timber battens to protect the dpm and edge insulation whilst tamping or power trowelling the concrete.

To help ensure a successful installation and good performance from the completed floor, follow the points on the back of this leaflet.

REMEMBER
Workmanship is a key factor in preventing heat loss and air leakage.



Energy Efficiency Office
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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POINTS TO FOLLOW

- Ensure insulation is the correct type
- Store insulation in a dry place prior to use
- Tape joints in the dpm, and lap with the wall dpc
- Install insulation across the whole floor area



Compact sand blinding to give a level surface



Butt insulation boards tightly with no gaps



Provide effective support for edge insulation



Cut insulation to fit tightly around services



Avoid damaging the insulation and dpm whilst placing and finishing the concrete



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